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Implementing aging management program in interim wet storage

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Clab is a facility, own by Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Co (SKB), for wet intermediate storage of spent nuclear fuel pending deposit in final repository. At Clab 6700 tonnes of nuclear fuel are currently stored with a residual power of about 8.3 MW. Requirements regarding ageing management programs at nuclear facilities were introduced in 2006. Two attempts to introduce ageing management programs were made between 2006 and 2013, but failed. In 2013, SKB received an injunction to implement an ageing management program for Clab.

A project group was appointed to produce an appropriate ageing management program for the facility. The program was developed with guidance from the IAEA safety guide No NS-G-2.12.

The strategy was to involve the line organization early in the project so that the people who would manage the program were involved in the development of management systems, analyses and proposals for measures. This made the handover of the project to the line organization quite simple and straight forward.

The facility consists of approximately 160 systems, of which about 96 are included in the ageing program. Only systems that are important for radiation safety are currently included in the program.

After all systems were analysed from an ageing perspective, 546 new measures, were identified that needed to be implemented to have control over the facility's ageing. During the execution of the measures, several unexpected discoveries have been made.

The result of the work in the program has shown that the plant's status with regard to physical ageing is good. Technological ageing (obsolescence) is a bigger challenge.

Several lessons were learned in the development of the ageing program, for example the importance of good communication with the supervisory authority. Another lesson is the importance to set the right level of analysis that otherwise risks becoming ineffective.

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Country or International Organization

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